

1. Learn About Coffee and Spice

Join us for a morning walk through our 10-acre property where we grow several different spices and Arabica coffee. We show you how the plants are cultivated, encourage you to try your hand at picking any spices that are ready for harvesting and give you a brief history of the ancient spice trade while we are at it.

(Activity provided free of charge)

From Leaf to Cup (20 minutes by foot, one way)

Walk down to the neighbourhood tea factory for a lesson on how Sri Lanka's most famous export – tea – is processed. Watch how a batch of freshly packed tea leaves is transformed into the familiar brew that is enjoyed by millions around the world.

(Activity provided free of charge based on availability)

The Kotmale Dam (25 minutes, one way)

The impressive Kotmale Dam built in the 1980s is just a 15-minute drive from the Weir. The Weir House manager will accompany you to the dam and give you details on its construction. Take in the majesty of this engineering wonder and if the waters are low catch a glimpse of ancient temples that were submerged during its construction. If interested we will then take you to visit the Mahaweli Maha Seya a gigantic stupa built to replace the lost temples.

(\$25 for a group up to 4 people using guest's vehicle, \$50 per group in Weir House vehicle)

Rice and Spice Cookery Demonstration

Spend a morning at the Weir House with our cook Leslie who will show you how to put together that lunch time staple of all Sri Lankan homes – the amazing rice and curry. He will give you tips, show you how to use spices, and even walk you through our gardens to collect produce for your meal. You then get to enjoy the meal you cooked and also receive the Weir House Lunch, a booklet of rice and curry recipes.

(\$25 per person)

Hill and Village Walk

The Weir House is located right across from a hill, which dominates our views. For those who like to explore on foot you can cross the stream at the bottom of our property and then walk through a shaded, meandering path that takes you past many village homes. For the more adventurous a steep climb will take you up to the top of the hill for fabulous views of the valley below.

Kitulgala (1 hour)

For adventure seekers – there's no better spot than Kitulgala. From white water rafting to canyoning, from kayaking to hiking, Kitulgala offers enough for a half-day or full day of activities.

Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya (45 minutes)

The Peradeniya Gardens were once the playground of ancient royalty. Converted into Botanical Gardens in 1892 by British colonists, the Gardens are considered to be one of the best in Asia, with over 10,000 plants and 4000 labeled species. The Gardens contain avenues of statuesque palms and beautiful cannonball trees, orchid houses and several rare species of trees.

Kandy (1 hour)

Kandy is famed for the Dalada Maligawa - the ancient royal palace that now houses the sacred tooth relic of the Lord Buddha. The Kandy Perahera, is held each year in August, and is a colourful spectacle of adorned elephants, fire dancers and traditional drummers.

Adam's Peak (45 minutes)

Adam's Peak is a conspicuous, statuesque, triangular shape that announces its presence amidst its less well-proportioned mountain counterparts. The Peak is famous for its giant footprint, which is considered sacred by Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike. Climbing season commences in December and ends in May. The four-hour hike begins in the dead of night - in time to reach the summit to watch the first rays of sunlight pierce through the darkness to cast a perfect shadow of the mountain on the plains below.

The Temple Trio (30 minutes)

Step off the beaten track to visit three ancient temples built in the 14th century by kings who ruled the Gampola Kingdom. The three temples, Embekke, Gadaladeniya and Lankatilleka were regularly visited by both the kings and their wives. The temples are interesting, as despite their close proximity they differ considerably in their architecture.

Nuwara Eliya (2.5 hours)

Nuwara Eliya is fondly known as Little England - for its lovely Scottish style cottages and manicured gardens. For those who like a spot of golf while on holiday, Nuwara Eliya's golf course is considered one of the finest in Asia. The drive up to Nuwara Eliya from the Weir House is spectacular as you meander past riverine forests, before breaking into the tea country - where hill-upon-hill is blanketed in brilliant green tea bushes.

